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Message Text

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63
ORIGIN OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-15 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 CEQ-01

OFA-01 EPA-04 IO-11 NSF-02 /125 R

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EUR/SOV:SHUMPHREY (SUBS.)
FEA:BEVERETT
ERDA:BHILL
ERDA:NDUNNING
EPA:WBROWN
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R 082200Z MAR 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, UR

SUBJECT: ENERGY: GAS 08.05

1. DUNNING REQUESTS EMBASSY PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO ZAITSEV:

A. THANK YOU FOR SENDING ME THE RECORD OF THE JANUARY 19-FEBRUARY 1 SECOND MEETING OF THE TEMPORARY GROUP OF GAS EXPERTS. BECAUSE OF CHANGES RESULTING FROM A REVIEW IN WASHINGTON FOLLOWING THIS MEETING, I AM NOT AUTHORIZED TO SIGN THE RECORD IN THE FORM WHICH YOU HAVE SIGNED. I AM
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SORRY THAT WE HAVE MORE WORK TO DO BEFORE REACHING AN

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AGREEMENT; BUT YOU WILL RECALL THAT WE MADE CLEAR AT OUR FIRST MEETING IN THE US THAT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR REVIEW IN WASHINGTON AFTER OUR VISIT TO THE USSR WOULD BE REQUIRED BEFORE THE US POSITION ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE JOINT COMMITTEE COULD BE DEVELOPED.

B. THE CHANGES I NOW SUGGEST ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PARAGRAPH 2: THE US SIDE HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE ONLY ONE OF THE 8 TOPICS LISTED WHICH, BASED ON OUR PRESENT KNOWLEDGE, SHOWS GOOD PROMISE FOR MUTUAL BENEFITS IS "OPERATIONS UNDER ARCTIC CONDITIONS". WE UNDERSTAND THAT

THE TOPIC OF HIGHEST SOVIET PRIORITY IS "INCREASING GAS AND GAS-CONDENSATE RECOVERY FROM PRODUCTIVE FORMATIONS" AND WE THINK WE COULD ALSO BENEFIT FROM COOPERATION IN THIS TOPIC. ACCORDINGLY, WE ARE PREPARED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE JOINT COMMITTEE APPROVE THESE TWO TOPICS FOR JOINT PROJECTS. IN ADDITION THERE ARE SEVERAL TOPICS OF INTEREST TO US WHICH WE WERE UNABLE TO EXPLORE DURING THE JANUARY VISIT AND WHICH WE WISH TO EXPLORE IN THE USSR. THESE ARE:

(1) CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF CITY GAS DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS, INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT OF PLASTIC PIPE ABOVE 6 INCHES IN DIAMETER OR FOR PRESSURES ABOVE 60 POUNDS PER SQUARE INCH, TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT FOR ROCK AND CONCRETE REMOVAL DURING EXCAVATION OPERATION, TECHNIQUES FOR DETECTING AND EVALUATING LEAKS IN UNDER-GROUND PIPING, AND TECHNIQUES FOR INSPECTING STEEL MAINS IN PLACE TO DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF CORROSION.

(2) RESIDENTIAL GAS APPLIANCES, CONTROLS, AND IGNITION SYSTEMS, INCLUDING RESEARCH, HARDWARE DEVELOPMENT, AND MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS.

(3) INDUSTRIAL GAS BURNER SYSTEMS, INCLUDING RESEARCH, HARDWARE DEVELOPMENT, AND MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS.

(4) GASIFICATION OF HYDROCARBONS.
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WE WISH THE RECORD TO SHOW THAT THE US SIDE REPEATED ITS EARLIER REQUESTS FOR A VISIT TO SOVIET ARCTIC GAS OPERATIONS AND IN ADDITION REQUESTED IDENTIFICATION OF THE RESPONSIBLE SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION, APPLIANCE, BURNER SYSTEM AND GASIFICATION TOPICS AND RELATED SUB-TOPICS DESCRIBED ABOVE SO THAT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR ANOTHER VISIT TO THE USSR BY US EXPERTS

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INTERESTED IN THESE AREAS.

PARAGRAPH 3: WE BELIEVE IT IS PREMATURE TO PLAN FOR JOINT LABORATORY RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL AND INDUSTRIAL TESTS OF EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS AND THEREFORE WISH THIS PARAGRAPH TO BE LIMITED TO THREE FORMS OF COOPERATION, NAMELY, EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, TRIPS OF SPECIALISTS, AND SYMPOSIA.

PARAGRAPH 4: WE DO NOT WISH TO PUT OFF OUR NEXT MEETING UNTIL A 1977 MEETING IN THE US, SINCE WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN SOVIET ARCTIC GAS OPERATIONS OR SOVIET ACTIVITY ON DISTRIBUTION, APPLIANCES, BURNER SYSTEMS AND GASIFICATION, AS DESCRIBED ABOVE. WE ALSO PROPOSE

DELETION FROM THIS PARAGRAPH OF REFERENCE TO CORROSION, TURBOEXPANDER AND MEMBRANE ITEMS.

APPENDICES: THE APPENDIX ON "OPERATIONS UNDER ARCTIC CONDITIONS" SHOULD LIST THE FOLLOWING SUB-TOPICS (WITH ERDA ADDED AS A US PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION):
1.1 DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, TESTING AND OPERATION OF LARGE DIAMETER PIPELINES IN ARCTIC CONDITIONS, INCLUDING WELLS AND WELL HEADS, PRIMARY TREATMENT, GATHERING LINES AND OTHER FIELD FACILITIES;

1.2 WELDING OF HIGH STRENGTH ARCTIC GRADE GAS PIPELINES, INCLUDING ANALYSIS OF MATERIALS AND PROCEDURES NOW USED AND DEVELOPMENT OF IMPROVED MATERIALS AND PROCEDURES FOR WELDING AND REPAIR UNDER LOW TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS;

1.3 DESIGN, MATERIALS, DRILLING, COMPLETION, AND OPERATION OF ARCTIC WELLS. THE APPENDIX ON "INCREASING UNCLASSIFIED

GAS AND GAS-CONDENSATE RECOVERY FROM PRODUCTIVE FORMATIONS" IS SATISFACTORY TO US WITHOUT CHANGE.

THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR APPENDICES ON TURBOEXPANDERS, CORROSION, POLYMER MEMBRANES, LNG, GAS UTILIZATION, AND UNDERGROUND STORAGE.

C. LAST YEAR WE PROPOSED THAT A SINGLE EXCHANGE ON PIPELINES IN PERMAFROST REGIONS TAKE PLACE UNDER THE COMBINED AUSPICES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY AGREEMENTS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SOVIET SIDE WISHES TO KEEP THESE TWO ASPECTS SEPARATE. WE NOW CONCUR THAT THE WORK ON PIPELINES IN PERMAFROST REGIONS UNDER THE ENERGY AGREEMENT BE SEPARATE FROM THE WORK ON THAT SUBJECT UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT.

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D. YOUR RESPONSE ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED:

(1) YOUR CONCURRENCE WITH OR COMMENTS ON OUR PROPOSAL FOR TWO TOPICS TO RECOMMEND TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE FOR JOINT PROJECTS AND THREE RATHER THAN FOUR FORMS OF COOPERATION TO BE SPECIFIED AT THIS TIME;

(2) YOUR SUGGESTIONS AS TO TIMING AND ITINERARY FOR A US VISIT TO ARCTIC GAS OPERATIONS (YOUR INFORMAL SUGGESTION OF OCTOBER 1976 WOULD BE SATISFACTORY TO US).

(3) YOUR SUGGESTIONS AS TO TIMING AND ITINERARY FOR A US VISIT TO THE USSR TO EXPLORE THE DISTRIBUTION, APPLIANCE, BURNER SYSTEMS, AND GASIFICATION ITEMS AS

DESCRIBED ABOVE.

(4) YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR A NEXT SOVIET VISIT TO THE US.

2. FYI. THE SOVIET SIDE OF THE NORTHERN ECOSYSTEMS AREA UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT EXPRESSED A PREFERENCE TO KEEP ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY ASPECTS OF WORK ON PIPELINES IN PERMAFROST SEPARATE. OUR ORIGINAL PROPOSAL TO MERGE THESE ASPECTS WAS IN 75 STATE 070087.
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THE US EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT CONCURS WITH OUR REVISED POSITION FAVORING SEPARATION. WE FEEL THAT THE FUTURE VISITS SUGGESTED ABOVE ARE REASONABLE UNDER THE MANDATE OF THE TEMPORARY GROUP OF GAS EXPERTS EVEN BEFORE THE JOINT COMMITTEE APPROVES ANY TOPICS FOR COOPERATION. END FYI.
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